

Warren County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 511 OF 2015

Resolution introduced by Supervisors Monroe, Girard, Sokol, Wood, Frasier, Westcott and Strough

RESOLUTION SEEKING STATE ASSISTANCE WITH THE NEW YORK TAX CAP

WHEREAS, in 2011, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature adopted what is commonly referred to and known as New York State's Property Tax Cap to address New York's ever increasing property taxes, and

WHEREAS, the Property Tax Cap set in place a cap on growth of property taxes in New York whereby real property taxes are capped at two percent (2%) per year or the rate on inflation, whichever is less, and

WHEREAS, the focus of the tax cap has been on the laudable goal of driving down costs of government services through cuts and consolidation in services and heightened economic development aimed at alleviating the pressure of the tax cap; and

WHEREAS, while increasing economic development everywhere in New York State is an important and laudable goal, New York's towns and counties within the Blue Line of the Adirondack Park face particular hardships when seeking development projects due to additional government regulation and hurdles; and

WHEREAS, such government regulation significantly curtails the amount of available acreage within the Blue Line for economic development and imposes additional regulatory hurdles for beneficial development within the Adirondack Park; and

WHEREAS, recent studies, including the 2009 Adirondack Park Regional Assessment Project sponsored by the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages and the Adirondack North Country Association, note the aging population of the Adirondack Park and the significant decrease in viable economic opportunities for residents within the Adirondack Park; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the 2009 Adirondack Park Regional Assessment Project also noted that from 1980 to 2006, real property tax as a portion of total revenue within the Park actually decreased in the average Adirondack community; and

WHEREAS, many communities in the Adirondack Park also have aging water and/or sewer systems which combined with ever increasing regulatory controls from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Department of Health, and United States Environmental Protection Agency, have resulted in increased employee hours and financial obligations simply to keep those systems within permit guidelines and limits; and

WHEREAS, communities within the Adirondack Park find themselves at a significant crossroads;

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higher regulatory and financial obligations for aging infrastructure versus compliance with the tax cap; and

WHEREAS, most communities within the Adirondack Park have already taken significant steps aimed at cost savings within their communities including significant reductions in highway and DPW staff and other staffing cuts; and

WHEREAS, most communities within the Adirondack Park now find themselves understaffed to the point where essential public services including road maintenance and the ability to monitor and maintain their water and/or sewer systems simply cannot be performed within the available employee hours given recent reductions; and

WHEREAS, much of the land in the Adirondack Park, with more being purchased every year, is owned by the State of New York and non-profits aimed at curtailing development within the Adirondack Park, thereby further increasing the burden imposed on local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the year round residents and taxpayers of the Adirondack Park are at a breaking point with the need for meaningful services and roads and the ever decreasing revenue with which to supply such services and roads; and

WHEREAS, the communities within the Adirondack Park hereby ask Governor Andrew Cuomo and members of the New York State Legislature to help the residents and taxpayers of the Adirondack Park with regulatory relief and financial assistance in order that our communities can comply with the Tax Cap, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors asks Governor Andrew Cuomo and members of the New York State Legislature to help the residents and taxpayers of the Adirondack Park with regulatory relief and financial assistance to help our communities comply with the Tax Cap; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors asks Governor Andrew Cuomo and members of the New York State Legislature to provide funding assistance for the communities within the Blue Line of the Adirondack Park for water, sewer and road infrastructure to help offset the loss of revenues imposed by New York's Tax Cap, which loss grossly exceeds the costs of supplying such services, particularly within the Blue Line of the Adirondack Park; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors asks Governor Andrew Cuomo and members of the New York State Legislature to provide meaningful regulatory relief to communities within the Blue Line of the Adirondack Park so that actual economic development can take place; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution take effect immediately; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to forward copies of this resolution to the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC); the Adirondack Park Agency; Governor Andrew M. Cuomo; the New York State Association of Towns and Villages (AATV); Senator Elizabeth O'C. Little; and Assemblyman Daniel G. Stec.